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Leaflet Regarding Rules of Publication.—CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE has prepared a leaflet explaining its rules regarding publication. This leaflet gives suggestions on the preparation of manuscripts and of illustrations. It is suggested that contributors to this Journal write to its office requesting a copy of this leaflet.

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EDITORIALS†

THE MILL OF THE FIFTY-SECOND CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

Tentative Report on Bills Introduced.—At this writing it is not possible to give much information concerning proposed laws with public health implications which, up to the present, have been submitted to the Fifty-second California Legislature, now in session; because most of the important measures are still in their formative drafts.

At a meeting of the Council held in San Francisco on January 16, Dr. Junius B. Harris of Sacramento, chairman of the California Medical Association Committee on Public Policy and Legislation, gave a bird's-eye view of the legislative situation, and the picture he painted was in line with former experiences. The Council minutes record the action taken by that body in its all-day session.*

* * *

Three Important Measures: Medical Practice Act Codification; Medical Service Associations; Hospitalization Plan.—Three measures, in which the members of the California Medical Association have a special interest at this time, are:

1. The Medical Practice Act, as revised by the Code Commission. Through conference between representatives of the State Board of Medical Examiners, the California Medical Association and of the State Code Commission, it is hoped that the laws governing medical practice, in the new code, have been clarified without in any way detracting from their power.

2. The proposed law governing Medical Service Associations, as prepared by the Council's Special Committee and legal counsel, was carefully considered by the Council, section by section, and authority given to submit it to the Legislature. (See Item 13 in Council minutes.)

One or more measures of somewhat similar purpose have already been introduced on behalf of interests whose identity is not known. More of these in later issues.

3. A proposed Hospital Service law, sponsored by the Associated Hospitals of Southern California, was read, discussed and approved by the Council, and the chairman of the Los Angeles

† Editorials on subjects of scientific and clinical interest, contributed by members of the California Medical Association, are printed in the Editorial Comment column, which follows.

* Council minutes are printed in this issue, on page 120.

County Medical Association Committee, Dr. William H. Kiger, was given authority to have the bill presented to the Legislature. This bill will take the place of Assembly Bill 246, which was enacted by the previous legislature, and contains provisions which the State Insurance Commissioner feels will add to its value and safeguards.

* * *

Other Proposed Laws.—Six skeleton bills to amend Medical Practice Act:

Among other items of proposed legislation, it may be of interest to note that one assemblyman has introduced a half-dozen "skeleton bills" to amend the Medical Practice Act; the entire texts of which measures, at the time of this writing, contain nothing more than the meager language:

An act to amend Chapter 5 of the Business and Professions Code, relating to the practice of medicine and surgery, and other modes of treating the sick or afflicted.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:
1 Section 1.

What this assemblyman proposes later, on behalf of himself and friends, to insert in his array of measures, remains to be seen!

* * *

Clinical Histories of Patients No Longer Confidential(?):

Assembly Bill No. 385 is not long, and will probably shock most physicians and hospitals, who are prone to look upon history records as confidential communications. It is a joint presentation of seven assemblymen; and because of its comparative brevity, it is here printed in full:

ASSEMBLY BILL No. 385

Introduced by Messrs. Clark, Peek, Hornblower, Lore, Pelletier, Hawkins, and Rosenthal
January 13, 1937

Referred to Committee on Hospitals and Asylums

An act to add section 10½ to the Workmen's Compensation, Insurance and Safety Act of 1917, relating to records of persons receiving compensation thereunder.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. A new section is hereby added to the Workmen's Compensation, Insurance and Safety Act of 1917, to be numbered Section 10½ and to read as follows:

Sec. 10½. All records of any hospital, clinic, sanitarium, physician, surgeon, or other person or institution in respect to services rendered to any person under the provisions of Section 6 of this Act, including but not restricted to x-rays and histories of injuries and diagnoses, shall be exhibited to the patient and to any person authorized in writing by him to examine the same. Any such person or patient shall be permitted to make copies of such records, including, but not restricted to, photostatic copies. Violation of any of the provision of this section shall constitute a misdemeanor.

* * *

Assembly Bill No. 384, a bill couched almost in the same language, is entitled:

An act to add Section 4055.5 to the Labor Code, relating to records of persons receiving compensation thereunder.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

* * *

False Advertising by Radio:

Then there is Assembly Bill No. 288 which, if enacted, may apply to some of the atrocious mis-

representations so frequently heard in radio broadcasts concerning curative agents. It is entitled:

An act to add Section 654d to the Penal Code, relating to false advertising by radio, and providing penalties for the violation thereof.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

* * *

Milk Production and Distribution:

Two bills having to do with milk (Heisinger Assembly Bill 50 and Thorp Assembly Bill 77) are commented upon by Dr. J. C. Geiger in the Letters department of this issue. (See page 132.)

* * *

Pay Patients in County Hospitals:

Assembly Bill No. 51, introduced by Mr. Heisinger, has been referred to the Committee on County Government, its short title being "County Hospitals Admission Amendment." It would permit a county board of supervisors to "provide for the admission of pay patients to the county hospital."

* * *

Narcotic and Other Measures:

Among other bills are several which deal with narcotic regulations, the licensing of clinical laboratory technologists and technicians, and various public health matters.

These and other proposed laws will receive comment in later issues of the OFFICIAL JOURNAL.

A NATIONAL DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

The Effort Twenty-five Years Ago.—About twenty-five years ago considerable effort was made by the medical profession throughout the country to secure the enactment of legislation that would provide for an additional department—that of Public Health—to be represented in the cabinet of the President of the United States. Those endeavors, however, made very little impression upon Congress or the lay public. As a matter of fact, the attempt brought such a disheartening response that some who had enlisted in the cause came to the conclusion that it was a proposition almost permanently hopeless.

In the same issue of the OFFICIAL JOURNAL,* in which these comments appear, is also printed a paragraph written twenty-five years ago by the late Philip Mills Jones, as follows:

Owen Bill.—A number of requests for a copy of the last Owen bill to create a Department of Public Health have been received, and as the matter is of the greatest importance to public health, the *Journal* elsewhere in this issue, prints the bill in full. It will probably be some time before the Congress will enact any law of this nature, and it is quite possible that when such a law is finally passed it will differ somewhat from the present proposed measure. . . . California State Journal of Medicine, Vol. X, No. 2, February, 1912.

* * *

Different Attitude With Changing Times.—However, times have changed, and with the social unrest of the past few years, a shift of view has

* See Twenty-five Years Ago department, on page 144.